

Remarks

This is in response to the Examiner's Action dated May 27, 1993. In that Action Claims 1 through 16 were rejected. The applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that the claims, as amended, are properly rejectable.

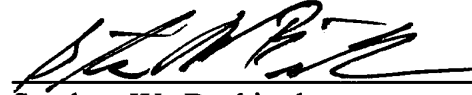
The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 5, 9, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by United States Patent 5,037,172 (Hekman et al.). In addition, Claims 2, 6, 10, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over the Hekman et al. patent. Further, Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, and 16 were rejected over the Hekman et al. reference in view of United States Patent 5,005,931 (Mori). The applicants have amended Claim 1 to clarify the difference between the present invention and the teachings of the references.

As amended, Claim 1, and hence, by dependency, all of the claims in the present application require that the reflection occur by total internal reflection. Contrary to this, both of the cited references specifically teach that the reflector should be a metallic reflector. A metallic reflector will provide a less efficient reflection and thus be disadvantageous compared with the present invention.

The Examiner also states that it would be obvious to use any spacing of the reflectors in the Hekman reference. The Examiner provides no support for this statement, however. It is not clear that it would be obvious to use any spacing. In fact, as the Examiner points out, the apparatus of the Hekman patent is primarily useful in the area of data communications. Even if it would be obvious to make the present invention if one were to look to the Hekman reference, alone or in combination with Mori, and it is not, it is not clear that someone of skill in the art of illumination would turn to the Hekman patent to solve the presently presented problem..

Because the invention, as defined by the claims as amended, is not anticipated by nor obvious in view of the cited references, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of the claims and allow all claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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